



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 2 2004

Marti Allbright, Esq.
Executive Director, Take Pride in America® and Special Assistant to the Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Allbright:

The intergovernmental effort to restore the Everglades is the largest watershed restoration program in the world and a model for collaborative conservation. The effort includes Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments and many diverse stakeholders. The collaboration among the many affected interests has produced extraordinary accomplishments in a very short time.

A key focal point for this collaboration is the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force). Established by Congress in 1996, the Task Force consists of seven Federal agency representatives, five representatives of State and local government, and two Native American Indian Tribes. Among its other duties, the Task Force coordinates the development of consistent strategies, policies, plans, projects and programs to address the restoration, preservation and protection of the South Florida ecosystem. Task Force activities facilitate public participation by all stakeholders, including the public and local communities, in Everglades restoration efforts. As a result, the Task Force offers opportunities to improve cohesion among all affected interests on the many programs that collectively comprise the Everglades restoration effort.

By statute, the Department of the Interior chairs the Task Force. By the authority vested in me under the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, 110 Stat. 3771, and consistent with the statutory requirements included therein for designation, I hereby appoint you, effective today, as Chair of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. I know that you bring numerous qualifications to this position of leadership and considerable skill and talent to this endeavor. I look forward to working with you as we continue our progress to restore America's Everglades.

Sincerely,